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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

PICKETT RANCH & SHEEP CO.

1650 SOUTH 568 WEST • OAKLEY, IDAHO 83346 • (208) 862-3482

cc Lynn K.  
MAN  
DWH

March 13, 2002

Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Box 145801 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Re: **Protest: Notice of Tentative Decision, Gold Star Stone, Lone Pine Mine, M/003/050,**  
**Box Elder County, Utah**

Dear Ms. Wright,

I am in receipt of your Notice of Tentative Decision to Approve a Large Mining operation on lands described in your notice as the SE ¼ and the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 34, Township 14 North, Range 17 West, SLBM.

Be advised that we own the SE ¼ NE ¼, Section 34 and we have no intentions of mining this property at this time. My records indicate that the correct legal description of the "Lone Pine Mine" would be within the N ½ SE ¼, Section 34, T14N, R17W, SLBM. I believe your notice, as published, is in error.

Furthermore, as owner of several parcels adjacent to the proposed operation, I am deeply concerned with the impacts an operation of this size will have on our property, particularly relating to the E ½ NE ¼ **Section 34**, hereinafter referred to as **parcel number 1**, and **Section 2 of Township 13 North**, hereinafter referred to as **parcel number 2**.

Parcel No. 1 lies no more than 300 yards from the current mine, but is approximately 250 feet lower in elevation. Parcel No. 2 is 500 yards away with nearly an 800 foot vertical drop directly from the mine onto this property. My concern is the obvious fact that "waste" materials from the mining activities will likely end up rolling down the mountain, destroying fences, livestock and any other improvements which may be in the way. In fact this already happened two years ago when Gold Star reopened the mine. While improving the road leading to the mine, large boulders were dislodged and rolled down into parcel no. 2, breaking the fence in several places.

Additionally, the access road currently lies only a few feet from the fence and property boundary on parcel no. 1. Who will stand the cost of damages resulting from road improvement, highwall construction, careless driving, wildfires caused by burning broken pallets and/or garbage (a common practice), wind-blown garbage and other foreign waste, fuel leaks, used motor oil and other environmental liabilities?

Your notice does not address any of these issues. Any decision approving this operation must include adequate restrictions addressing these concerns, as well as appropriate enforcement remedies.

Please direct any questions to our office at (208) 862-3482 or respond, if necessary, in writing.

Sincerely yours,

PICKETT RANCH & SHEEP CO.

By:   
Douglas T. Pickett, V.P.

DTP/

Cc: Gold Star Stone